S.N. 09/676,866 . . . . .Page 9

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application.

Claims 5-13 and 20-27 are objected to.

Claims 1-4, 14-19 and 28-29 are rejected

The office action dated November 5, 2003 indicates that claims 5-13 and 20-27 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 13 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form and should now be allowable. Claims 6-12, which depend from claim 5, and claims 21-26, which depend from claim 20, should also be allowable.

The office action indicates that claims 1-2, 16-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Harrington U.S. Patent No. 6,031,581; and that claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Harrington in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,2325,754. These rejections have been rendered moot by the amendments above to claims 1, 15, 16 and 29.

Amended claim 1 recites a method of reducing chromatic bleeding artifacts in a digital image. The method comprises reducing chrominance values of at least some pixels in the digital image. The chrominance value of a pixel is reduced according to its chromatic dynamic range.

Harrington et al. change the chrominance value of a pixel based on a difference in luminance values (col. 4, lines 1-22). As a result, the slope of the chrominance change matches the slope of the luminance change. The change in chrominance is clipped by minimum and maximum values of a local neighborhood (col. 5, lines 15-20). These local minimum and maximum values do not affect the slope of the change.

S.N. 09/676,866 . . . . .Page 10
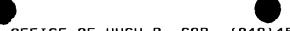
Harrington et al do not teach or suggest reducing a chrominance value based on a difference in chrominance values of a local neighborhood. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 14 should be allowed over Harrington et al.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite a method of reconstructing a digital image from a luminance channel and subsampled chrominance channels. The method includes selectively reducing chrominance values of at least some pixels in the digital image. The pixels are selectively reduced according to chromatic dynamic ranges. Amended claim 15 should be allowed because Harrington et al. do not teach or suggest reducing a chrominance value based on a chromatic dynamic range.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite a processor for selectively reducing chrominance values of pixels in a digital image, the pixels being selectively reduced according to chromatic dynamic ranges. Amended claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-19 and 28 should be allowed because Harrington et al. do not teach or suggest reducing a chrominance value based on a chromatic dynamic range.

Claim 29 has been amended to recite a program that, when executed, causes a processor to reduce chromatic bleeding artifacts in a digital image by selectively reducing chrominance values of pixels in the digital image. The chrominance value of a pixel is selectively reduced according to chromatic differences in a local neighborhood of the pixel. Amended claim 29 should be allowed because Harrington et al. do not teach or suggest reducing a chrominance value based on a chromatic differences in a local neighborhood.

Claims 30-35 have been added to the application. These claims recite that a luminance value of a pixel being modified is used to modify an amount of

S.N. 09/676,866 . . . . .Page 11

chromatic reduction. Contrast this to Harrington et al., which use a difference in luminance values to determine the change in chrominance values.

Claims 36-43 have also been added to the application. These claims should be allowable since they recite subject that has been indicated by the office action to be allowable.

An added claims fee has been incurred because the number of independent claims has been increased from four to eight, and the total number of claims has been increased from 29 to 43. Authorization to charge the added claims fee to the assignee's deposit account is provided in the attached transmittal letter.

Claims 4 and 19 have been amended for clarity.

The application should now be in condition for allowance. If any further issues remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss those remaining issues.